



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending July 29, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good week for Field Work: Finally Pennsylvania received a substantial amount of rain. The livestock and crops around the state are in much better condition because of the rain we received. The rain was received with open arms and many farmers are hoping that the rain will continue into the next week. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, spreading lime and manure, repairing equipment, making hay, and harvesting barley, oats, winter wheat, apples and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 29, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
33	31	36	0

Crops: Seventy-five percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 12 percentage points higher than the 5-year average, and 2 points higher than this time last year. Ten percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is two percentage points higher than the previous week. This is 5 points lower than this time last year and 3 points lower than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 56 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-eight percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-six percent of the oat crop is now turning yellow. This is 13 percentage points higher than this time last year and 17 points higher than the 5-year average. Of the oats turning yellow, 74 percent of those oats are now ripe. Ripened oats jumped from last week, they increased by 41 percentage points from the previous week. Many farmers have gotten some of their oats harvested, as 24 percent of the ripened oat crop was harvested last week. Fifty-one percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Seventy-two percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 37 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa has been completed. Thirty-three percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Ninety-six percent of the state's peaches are in good or excellent condition. Twenty-eight percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is 2 points higher than the previous year and 4 points lower than the 5-year average. Ten percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is right in line with both the previous year and the 5-year average. Ninety-nine percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Pennsylvania's pastures finally got the rain they desperately needed. The pasture conditions also improved throughout the state. Twenty-three percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition, which is 7 percentage points

higher than the previous week. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 33%, poor 19%, fair 25%, good 22%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of July 22, 2007: Showers along the northern Pacific Coast decreased wildfire risk while the threat continued across most of the Intermountain region. Heat remained stagnant in areas of the northern and central Rocky Mountains and Great Plains regions. Localized flooding in central and southern Texas continued to slow fieldwork. The northern portion of the Corn Belt remained dry through the week with cool temperatures lingering and stretching into the southern Corn Belt where precipitation aided crop maturation. Temperatures remained below the nineties throughout the Corn Belt States, aiding in the development of spring crops. Scattered showers in the Southeast weakened the drought's hold, but moisture shortages still remain. Meanwhile, unfavorable dryness continued to persist in the Mid-Atlantic States.

Corn: Seventy-eight percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 4 points ahead of last year and 16 points better than normal. As development continued, corn reached the dough stage in 14 percent of the country. Development to this stage was 2 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Corn condition declined by 2 percentage points compared to last week.

Soybeans: Blooming advanced 15 points during the week to 75 percent, 1 point ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year-average. More than 95 percent of the crop had bloomed in Louisiana and Mississippi. Setting of pods was evident in 30 percent of the nation's soybean crop, 6 points ahead of normal. The amount of the crop rated good or excellent decreased by 1 percentage point from last week.

Winter Wheat: Growers have reaped 81 percent of their acreage, advancing 11 points from last week, and in line with the 5-year average, despite field delays in the Southern Plains. Harvest was complete in several states, but Idaho, Montana, and Washington's soil still held on to more than 50 percent of plantings.

Small Grains: Conditions allowed field work to progress, as barley harvesting was getting underway with Minnesota and Washington producers reaping more than 10 percent of the crop. Condition of the crop was rated 67 percent good or excellent, a decrease of four points from last week. Oat harvest was nearly complete in Texas, but slightly behind schedule in North Dakota and Pennsylvania, where harvest had just began. Sixty-five percent of the oat crop was rated good or excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 29, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 29, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	61	70	-2	2.49	3	10.27	-3.71	36	1,552	172	2,582
Franklin	84	48	69	-2	0.22	4	12.04	-4.49	49	1,479	162	2,531
Meadville	80	57	69	0	0.23	2	8.90	-6.89	48	1,507	307	2,546
Mercer	80	52	68	-2	0.75	4	13.54	-2.16	48	1,438	133	2,482
Springboro	82	50	67	-6	0.31	5	11.41	-2.59	59	1,292	-95	2,305
Warren	84	51	68	-3	1.39	4	13.33	-2.94	46	1,305	26	2,332
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	45	64	-3	0.42	5	11.46	-5.06	55	1,027	97	2,000
Emporium	84	50	69	3	0.49	3	16.12	-0.72	50	1,370	330	2,412
Kane	82	48	66	0	1.01	4	15.45	-1.13	49	1,020	103	1,996
Laporte	84	52	68	-4	1.10	4	12.02	-3.48	52	1,258	-61	2,259
Lock Haven	88	55	72	1	0.55	4	9.06	-6.04	37	1,659	260	2,713
Port Allegany	82	48	66	0	0.62	4	12.52	-3.33	49	1,132	94	2,121
Renovo	87	51	71	0	0.92	3	11.53	-3.57	40	1,581	182	2,634
Ridgway	84	46	67	0	0.52	5	12.89	-3.95	51	1,154	114	2,168
Stevenson Dam	86	49	70	4	0.60	3	10.85	-5.99	41	1,425	385	2,464
Towanda	86	49	69	-3	1.85	3	10.03	-2.82	47	1,362	32	2,369
Wellsboro	84	46	67	1	0.93	4	13.59	0.60	46	1,162	181	2,146
Williamsport	88	54	73	0	0.72	4	8.16	-6.99	42	1,820	266	2,898
Northeast												
Hawley	84	51	68	-1	3.31	2	17.06	2.66	46	1,278	158	2,296
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	57	71	-2	2.36	3	12.96	-1.21	44	1,614	138	2,671
Susquehanna	84	53	69	2	3.49	3	17.69	2.27	48	1,335	260	2,351
West Central												
Butler	82	48	68	-4	0.78	4	10.21	-5.29	45	1,457	89	2,507
New Castle	86	49	70	-2	0.77	3	9.81	-4.53	43	1,595	218	2,656
Slippery Rock	83	50	69	0	0.63	5	13.49	-1.69	49	1,549	310	2,605
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	50	69	-3	1.11	4	11.40	-2.72	44	1,585	104	2,637
DuBois	81	49	68	-3	0.27	3	13.25	-2.36	52	1,401	123	2,440
Lewistown	87	51	71	-3	1.31	4	13.26	-1.95	44	1,691	66	2,755
Middletown	90	56	76	0	0.25	3	10.34	-4.38	35	2,060	224	3,149
Prince Gallitzi	82	45	66	-4	0.63	2	12.31	-5.66	41	1,303	134	2,328
Selinsgrove	88	50	72	-1	0.37	4	10.68	-4.48	38	1,653	136	2,708
State College	83	53	70	-2	0.67	3	11.08	-2.90	41	1,705	242	2,763
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	52	74	-1	0.91	2	16.24	0.91	46	1,787	107	2,857
Lehighton	84	53	70	-5	1.54	3	15.08	-0.32	46	1,601	-12	2,659
Matamoras	86	54	70	-3	2.57	3	16.85	0.74	45	1,421	-37	2,463
Mt_Pocono	80	54	68	2	1.98	3	15.51	-1.30	52	1,302	326	2,312
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	55	70	-2	0.60	5	11.79	-3.12	45	1,851	363	2,929
Derry	82	51	68	-3	1.32	4	17.77	2.46	41	1,510	123	2,560
Myersdale	83	44	65	-6	1.13	5	12.48	-4.48	49	1,128	-221	2,133
Mount Pleasant	86	49	68	-3	0.43	3	13.22	-3.89	48	1,471	245	2,532
Pittsburgh Intl	83	54	69	-4	0.46	1	11.73	-2.25	40	1,775	215	2,848
Connellsville	87	52	70	-3	0.74	4	14.52	-2.02	51	1,691	99	2,764
Waynesburg	84	51	68	-3	1.13	4	11.94	-3.27	46	1,560	124	2,626
South Central												
Biglerville	89	53	74	-2	0.81	4	10.31	-3.20	35	1,889	85	2,971
Everett	84	47	68	-5	0.85	5	10.66	-2.96	45	1,311	-140	2,353
Hanover	91	52	74	-2	1.31	3	10.18	-3.33	34	1,842	38	2,915
Harrisburg_AP	90	54	75	-2	0.21	3	8.22	-6.50	30	1,990	147	3,082
South Mountain	88	49	70	-2	0.40	3	10.94	-3.18	39	1,467	-7	2,511
York	90	51	74	-2	0.14	1	11.34	-3.65	34	1,791	-6	2,871
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	55	74	0	0.98	3	18.64	3.62	47	1,831	232	2,902
Hamburg	89	54	73	2	0.53	4	16.03	-1.90	40	1,879	429	2,956
West_Chester	89	51	74	-2	0.36	2	18.97	2.17	37	1,787	3	2,854
Lancaster	90	53	74	-2	1.78	2	14.86	-0.76	33	1,858	174	2,937
Neshaminy Falls	89	53	73	-2	0.73	2	23.20	5.68	43	1,708	36	2,765
New Holland	89	57	74	-1	0.75	2	16.55	0.93	38	1,917	233	2,989
Philadelphia	91	59	77	-1	0.21	2	17.95	2.82	35	2,182	246	3,284
Philadelphia NE	92	57	77	-1	0.68	4	18.36	3.23	43	2,140	204	3,242
Reading	91	53	75	0	0.75	3	15.44	-1.11	45	1,936	287	3,018
Valley Forge Na	89	55	74	-3	0.71	3	18.11	2.41	46	1,822	-69	2,901
Willow Grove	89	55	74	0	0.89	3	18.31	0.79	48	1,918	246	2,995

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams county continues to be very dry. The hot and humid temperatures are having major effects on our crops in the county. Only a few areas (Gettysburg, Biglerville and Bendersville areas) in the county received any moisture this week on Wednesday afternoon for a brief 5 minutes. Over the weekend some areas received rainfall. South of York Springs had about 0.6 of an inch Saturday/Sunday. Other areas had more and some areas had less in weekend thunderstorms. We are still dry.

Corn is continuing to dry up from the bottom of the stalk upward (about 6-10 inches) and leaves are rolled and growth has been stunted, and is short and most in tassel. Corn in New Oxford and East Berlin areas where rainfall was received in late June are looking ok for now but will soon start to show effects of lack of moisture soon. Other areas of the county the corn is at all different stages within a field and some is in tassel but without moisture ears will not form. (some producers will be start chopping corn for silage before it dries up too much.) Early soybeans are looking ok but some of their leaves are starting to turn due to drought also. Late beans and double-cropped beans are not all emerged yet and not looking good. Sweet corn has dried up also unless it was being irrigated. Mulch hay continues to be made. Alfalfa and mixed hay have no regrowth to make any additional cuttings. Producers are already feeding hay to compensate for lack of pasture for livestock so this will take its toll on their winter supply of feed.

Apple and peach trees are starting to show signs of stress due to the drought also. The apples and peaches are getting fairly decent size only because the producers are irrigating where they can but their water supply isn't being replenished without rainfall. The creeks do not have much flow at all. Where irrigation is not possible the size is a little smaller. The peaches have a sweeter taste due to sugar content being higher from no rainfall.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Scattered showers did not produce significant rainfall this week, but weather was cooler several days giving the cattle a break. Earlier planted corn formed decent ears and will soon be ready for silage as it is drying down. All the crops need moisture in the county. Now the corn in most areas is too far gone to come back with a corn crop this year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It is dry; again showers are very spotty and brief. Corn is tasseling. Trying to salvage a third cutting of hay. It has been too dry for any growth on the hay.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - We got some good showers during the week. I measured 1.25 inches in my rain gage. Things should start to get green again but we need more rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Pasture conditions are slowly starting to improve with the recent rains however producers are still supplementing hay along with the pasture. Rotational grazers are finding the need to double the size of their paddocks to provide enough forage for the same time period. Water is still a large concern since the water table has not been sufficiently recharged. Corn and beans have taken off and look good throughout the county.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Rain finally arrived in northern part of Dauphin County last week. Nearly 3 weeks since last rain and amounts varied across the region. Uncertain at this time regarding the impact of drought on pollination and grain set of corn crops. Soybeans are short with a few growers reporting bean leaf beetle and spider mite injury. Forage production will be significantly impacted across the region due to season long growing conditions. Sorghum sudan grass stands are providing limited forage alternatives. Many growers considering planting oats for supplemental forage production.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - We had a total of .8 inches of rain this week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - It was a good week for field work. Heavy storms came on the weekend to help with our droughty conditions. The corn crop was beginning to suffer; especially the late planted was starting to curl and the conventional tilled was starting to fire up at the bottom. The earlier no-tilled corn was holding up better. This storm really helped.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Heavy rainfall in many areas of the county should replenish much depleted soil moisture and just about carry early planted corn and beans through to harvest

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Hot and dry conditions continue. Showers and thunderstorms provided some relief Monday, Friday and Sunday totaling 0.8" in my gauge for the week, some got more some got less. We got 3" of rain in July but 2" was in early July. Overall we are still dry, but crops are doing okay. Most corn is tasseled and beans are filling pods. Pastures and hay fields are growing very slowly and are short. With another heat wave in the forecast crops will likely be stressed again this week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Another week of hit and miss showers that blessed some areas and totally missed others. Where the showers have been lightly hitting, the corn and soybeans are looking favorable; however, the area where they have missed, it is a near total disaster. The corn is not developing any ears and the soybean flowers are drying up. The third cutting of hay is near not existing. The main activities for the week have been harvesting small grain, baling straw, spreading lime and manure, and praying for rain.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - So much needed and well timed rain. Third cutting alfalfa taking off. Corn that had tasseled looks to be making ears. Southern part of the county not so lucky, corn only hip high.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Corn and soybeans are showing a little stress from dry conditions. Even though most areas had a little rain this week, the grass is a little brown.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 29, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	75	73	63
Corn, dough	10	15	13
Oats, turning yellow	96	83	79
Oats, ripe	74	42	48
Oats, harvested	24	24	23
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	37	21	26
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	33	35	30
Peaches, harvested	28	26	32
Apples, harvested	10	10	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 29, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	11	10	23	39	17
Oats	1	13	35	49	2
Soybeans	14	9	29	35	13
Quality of hay made	5	12	11	51	21
Pasture	33	19	25	22	1
Peaches	0	0	4	53	43
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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